

Santa Rosa County District 5 Newsletter

A Message From Your Commissioner



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& District 5
Commissioner
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Happy holidays! 2009 is drawing to a close, and while much has been accomplished in Santa Rosa county over the past year, we also have several exciting projects underway. Inside this newsletter you can learn more about some of the construction projects that will bring a positive impact to our county for years to come. From the fishing pier that will open next spring to the Avalon Boulevard improvements to be completed in 2011, there are many projects underway that are providing a boost to our economy.

In addition to the public works projects currently underway, private industry is continuing to invest in Santa Rosa County. The GEO correctional facility in East Milton has provided hundreds of jobs in our county during a period of economic instability. Your county government is doing all it can to stimulate the recruitment and retention of jobs for Santa Rosa. TEAM Santa Rosa has had several success stories even in the face of the national recession. Business leaders from near and far recognize the benefits and quality of life that Santa Rosa County offers, and that is helping to keep Santa Rosa moving forward.

Santa Rosa County's strong ties to our military installations is also helping to soften the impact of the nation's economic situation. The military provides long-term stability to our local economies, and your county government will continue to work to foster the relationships between the military and the county.

As Christmas approaches, I urge those of us who are fortunate enough to have the means and ability to do so to lend a hand to our neighbors and friends who are experiencing difficult times. Many in our community have suffered due to the economic slowdown, and we should all try to help those in need in whatever way we can.

2009 was an exciting and challenging year for Santa Rosa County, and I am sure 2010 will bring its own set of challenges and opportunities. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and look forward to a wonderful New Year!

**- Lane Lynchard
District 5 Commissioner**

Third Annual Holiday Fire Safety Campaign Begins December 1

Santa Rosa County fire departments are teaming up for the third year with Escambia County Fire-Rescue and the City of Pensacola to promote fire safety during the month of December. Titled "Keep Your Holidays Bright" in Santa Rosa and "Keep the Wreath Green" in Escambia, both counties hope to reduce the number of fires during a time of serious dangers through simple, life saving tips.

Santa Rosa's Keep Your Holidays Bright campaign will focus around a Christmas tree decorated with electric candles. Each time firefighters respond to a working residential fire or large wildfire causing fire damage, a candle will be "extinguished" and replaced with a card noting the basic details of the fire. In addition, daily fire safety tips will be released to remind the public to be aware of fire hazards during this joyful time of year. New this year, a video version of the weekly tips will be posted online each week beginning December 1 at www.santarosa.fl.gov, under "What's Hot."



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Dirt Road Paving in Santa Rosa County

Santa Rosa County paves dirt roads through two different processes. One is a rating system in which roads are prioritized and the highest rated roads are paved and funded by the county. The second process is funding the paving of roads through assessments paid by property owners adjacent to the roadway. The assessment method gives residents an option to have their road paved much sooner if the priority rating for their road is low.

Utilizing the rating system, criteria considered includes number of homes, road type (residential, connector, dead end), and the amount of maintenance required on the roadway. The highest rated roads are paved as far down the priority list as county funding will allow.

The assessment method is the MSBU process (Municipal Services Benefit Units) in which at least 55 percent of property owners who are Santa Rosa County residents sign a petition in favor of the MSBU assessments. Upon approval of the project by the board of county commissioners, all property owners adjacent to the roadway are assessed to fund the materials for the road paving project. Materials include sand/clay for the road base and asphalt for the surface. The county provides the labor and equipment at no additional cost to residents for county maintained roads. A typical road paving MSBU will require an assessment each year over a three year period but the assessment period can be longer if requested by the residents and approved by the county commission.

The Santa Rosa County Road Department paved 15.66 miles of dirt roads county-wide in the 2008/2009 fiscal year. Of those projects, 13.43 miles were county funded after prioritization through the rating system and 2.23 miles were funded through the MSBU process. The District 5 work district included all 2.23 miles of MSBU dirt road paving projects and 2.5 miles of county funded paving projects that were prioritized through the rating system.

In the current fiscal year in the District 5 work district, 1.95 miles of dirt roads will be paved through the MSBU process while 1.94 miles will be county funded after prioritization through the rating system. The roads to be paved are as follows:

MSBU Projects:

- Winfield Drive (from Redfield to just south of Flintwood)
- Pamplona Street (from Avenida De Sol to Andorra)
- Miranda Street (from Salamanca to Andorra)
- Escola Street (from Frontera to Andorra)
- Desoto Drive (from Filbert to just south of Bluefish)
- Hemlock Street (from Brewster to Woodmont)
- Adams Street (from Webster to north end)

County funded rating system projects:

- Pentagon Street
- Charter Circle
- Tulsa Court
- Fargo Court
- State Court
- Pecos Pass (west of C.R. 399)
- Tom Street
- Janet Street

Avalon Boulevard Construction Update

Panhandle Grading has completed approximately 90 percent of placing and compacting embankment material for the proposed roadway adjacent to the existing CSX R/R bridge abutment east of Avalon Boulevard and they continue to excavate the proposed pond site on Bach Drive. Upon completion they will move to the north and begin constructing the road bed. After the road bed is constructed, Panhandle will begin paving operations. The contractor is currently 5 percent ahead of the approved schedule.

The subcontractor, Northwest Florida Underground, has completed approximately 10 percent of the proposed drainage system. Pipe installation of the 48 inch trunk line from just south of Pebble Ridge to the CSX R/R installation has been completed. Contract time for this project expires mid November 2011. The contractor anticipates completing the project by June 2011.



Permenter Road was paved in fiscal year 2008/09.



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Navarre Beach Fishing Pier Update

As of Tuesday, November 17, 2009 the Navarre Beach Fishing Pier was 56 percent complete. Ed Waters and Sons have installed 81 of the 146 piles, 27 of the 46 caps, and 100 of the 186 beams (installed in sets of 4) to complete 875 feet of the designed 1,497 feet of the Navarre Beach Pier. The contractor has also installed handrail thru bent 22 and have 451 breakaway deck panels in place. PBS&J is currently working on the applications to extend the pier 45 feet and if constructed the Navarre Beach Pier will be the longest pier in the gulf.



Partners for Pets Donation Makes a Great Holiday Gift for the Animal Lover in Your Life

Looking for a gift for the animal loving friend or family member this holiday season? Give a Partner for Pets gift donation in their name! Making a gift donation not only shows that you understand and support their love and passion of protecting and caring for animals, but directly helps the quality of life of our local pets. With a donation of any amount, animal services will mail a personalized holiday greeting card with your message to notify them of your gift in their honor. Partners for Pets donations are tax-deductible and unlike national donation plans, 100 percent of all Partners for Pets donations will benefit animals in Santa Rosa County. Gift donations can be made securely online at www.santarosa.fl.gov/partnersforpets or by requesting a donation form by calling (850) 983-4680.

Santa Rosa County Animal Services Partners for Pets program was established with the goal of seeing every adoptable pet finding a loving, forever home. Donations to the new program are used to enhance current animal service efforts including

creating a low cost spay and neuter voucher program, increasing educational outreach on the benefits of spaying and neutering, and offering more adoption events throughout the county. When combined, these efforts have been proven to make a dramatic difference in local pet populations and in reducing the number of animals that must be humanely euthanized.

Unlike private shelters that can have limitations on the number of animals they accept, Santa Rosa County's shelter accepts each one with over 9,000 animals passing through their doors. Unfortunately, only an average of 18 percent are adopted, sent to



rescue organizations or reunited with their families when found straying from home. Sterilization of pets is the best solution to the overpopulation problem in our county. In addition to the gift donation, many other types and levels of support are available including supply donations, one time-donations, monthly supporter and memorial gifts.



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2009 Gulf Breeze Holiday Parade & Santa Fest!

The 2009 Gulf Breeze Holiday Parade & Santa Fest! will be held on Saturday, December 12, 2009 hosted by the City of Gulf Breeze and the Gulf Breeze Area Chamber of Commerce. The 2009 parade theme is: "Rockin' Around the Holiday!" The parade will start promptly at 10:00 am and the route will begin on Shoreline Drive behind Gulf Breeze High School, continue past City Hall, the Gulf Breeze Recreation Center and continue along Shoreline making a right turn on McLane Road, ending at Fairpoint Drive. All parade entries must be decorated and will be judged for the following award categories: "Best in Show", "Best Holiday Spirit" and "Grand Marshall's Choice". Applications for Holiday parade entries are available at: www.cityofgulfbreeze.com or call City Hall at 850-934-5100. Application deadline for Holiday Parade Entries: Friday, December 4. Entrance fee is \$25 for businesses and \$10 for non-profit organizations. Entrance fee applications received after December 5 will cost \$50. There will be a mandatory meeting for one representative from all entrants on Monday, Dec. 7 at 6:00pm at the Recreation Center on Shoreline Drive in Gulf Breeze.

Santa Fest! will be held immediately following the annual holiday parade in the parking lot in front of Gulf Breeze High School. There will be plenty of food, family fun, holiday music, and photos with Santa Claus! New this year: North Pole Market, a shopper's paradise featuring specialty retail businesses in the Gulf Breeze area. For Santa Fest! Sponsorship and North Pole Market information, call the Chamber at: 850-932-7888 or go to: www.gulfbreezechamber.com.



Holiday Recycling

Historically Santa Rosa County Recycling Department must contend with extremely high volumes of materials during the Christmas holidays. We plan to place additional containers at the larger sites and employ additional temporary staff to assist in the collection of these materials. Residents can help by insuring only recyclable materials are left at the sites.

Materials we cannot recycle include:

- * Styrofoam packing
- * Foil type wrapping paper
- * Used oil containers (the residual oil contaminates the other materials)
- * Christmas decorations including lights
- * Furniture
- * Building materials

It is highly important to remove the Styrofoam packing and collapse cardboard boxes. The Styrofoam may be placed in household garbage. The Recycling Department also asks that you consider delaying your drop-offs until after Jan. 10, if possible.

There are four main recycling sites at the south end of the county:

- * Navarre Beach Water Dept.
- * South Service Center
- * Tiger Point Recreation Center
- * Gulf Power Office on Hwy 98

Santa Rosa County residents can also dispose of their live Christmas trees until February 26 at four recycling areas throughout the county. Please place trees at the designated area identified by the sign. Do not place trees in front of the recycling containers.

Trees can be disposed at:

- * Tiger Point recreation area in Gulf Breeze, east of Wal-Mart
- * Quintette Recycle Area at the Five Points Intersection
- * Gulf Power recycle area on East Spencer Field Road
- * Santa Rosa Clean Community System located at 6758 Park Avenue in Milton

Citizens are urged not to cut up and burn their tree in a home fireplace. Burning evergreens gives off tar and creosol, which can ignite and cause a chimney fire.

Additional information is available on the county web site at: <http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/recycle/index.html>

